

# The MITCH Monarch

## Commentary

by Steven Peterson (6th)

I wonder why people love Thanksgiving so much. After all, it is basically just a day where you starve yourself until dinner and then pig out.

I can imagine some people saying just after dinner, "Boy am I thankful for how fat I got just now!"

It is almost like they think that starving and then bursting is fun. I'll bet you the turkey doesn't agree.

As a matter of fact, turkeys (those that remain) celebrate Thanksgiving on the last FRIDAY of November.

M.I.T.C.H. stands for:

- Marshmallows
- Ice cream
- Turkey
- Cranberries
- Ham

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## Science Fair 2011 by Melina Daniel (7th)

Congratulations to the winners of the 2011 MITCH science fair! Students' projects continue to improve every year. The first place winners for 5th-8th grade include: Claire Atwood (8), Melina Daniel

(7), Steven Peterson (6), and Manasi Sridhar (5).

This year Science Fair was run a little differently. Students have three months to complete a project either on their own (5<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup>) or as a class in

groups (K-4<sup>th</sup>). Many classes are doing projects centered on Physics and Biology but some are doing projects of any topic the students are interested in.

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## Hurricane Irene by Maddie Grace (8th)

How long is the longest you've ever been without power? Well, across the country in New England, a natural disaster occurred, called Hurricane Irene. Starting in late August, when Irene hit, 43,000 people lost power from North Carolina to Maine. Leading up to now,

about 5,000,000 have been without power all together (in every state Irene effected).

President Obama spoke extensively in New Jersey, promising to help rebuild most, if not all of the damaged communities. "We are going to make sure that we provide

all the resources that are necessary in order to help these communities rebuild."

Our President promises to provide help and resources for those who need it. But what do the people say?

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## Unique Talents Column by Rachel Soloos (8th)

How many people do you know who have Russian as their native language and can still speak it fluently? How many of those people are under 13 years old? Here at M.I.T.C.H., we have two such talented people, twins Tanya and Andrey in seventh grade.

I spoke with Tanya first, and asked her about holidays. Two of the



largest holidays here in America are thanksgiving and Christmas. In Russia, Christmas is still a big deal, but Easter is

highly celebrated also. It is much the same as a cross between our Christmas and Easter, but even bigger.

"Everyone thoroughly decorates their house the day before Easter. In the morning, there are huge parties and everyone receives cards, candy, and sometimes, money," Tanya informed me. "People will dress up as a bunny and hide eggs, then everyone else hunts for the eggs."

Christmas in Russia is much like Christmas here, but with a few differences. One such difference would be that Santa clause wears blue with silver stars, not solid red. Also, mostly women will dress as Santa clause, because the children might be afraid

of a man's more gruff voice.

I then spoke to Andrey and asked him about the language. "*Privet* means hello, and *paka* means good-bye," he told me. "We lived there until we were about four years old."

"The word *rozhdество* (pronounced rostisvo) means Christmas," Tanya interjected. "Also, most children call their mom 'mama' or 'mum'."

"Russia has a population that is substantially lower than America's," Andrey added as an afterthought.



## Student Surveys by Riley Ares (8th)

### If you had a superpower, what would it be?

"A cheese superpower because I could squirt cheese to make people stick to the ground." -Chandler (3)

"I would like to be Craft-Girl because I love crafts!" -Isabella Anderson (2)

"I would be a Halloween canon to help the world and give poor children candy." -Madison Cuthill (5)

"To have the ability to be a cow." -Leo Vitali (7)

"I would want to be a dragon-eyed meat-throwing bed-post singer." -Kacie Horn (3)

"The ability to teleport through time. I adore history and would love to see the events for myself, rather than merely reading about them." -Natalie Stites (7)

## Winter Concert by Melina Daniel (7th)

Since Mr. Gabriel has taken a new job, there is a new teacher who stepped in his place, Mrs. Coffee. Many people are wondering what the plan for the Winter Concert is. Songs that will be sung include: Candle Light, Catch a Falling Star, Light up the World with a Song, and others. These songs fit nicely with the theme of the winter concert.

This year, the theme of the concert is winter and songs that reflect world music. Students will be playing a variety of instruments including electric guitars, acoustic guitars, xylophones, drums, percussion, recorders, piano and others. Many of the students think that the plan for the concert this year is good and the instruments fit pretty well together.

The song Candle Light will have soloists that include 7<sup>th</sup> graders, 8<sup>th</sup> graders, and maybe some 6<sup>th</sup> graders. Seventh grade is playing instruments on the song Catch a Falling star while the younger grades sing. The final test is the concert, which is scheduled for January 20<sup>th</sup>.

## An Interview with Mr. Selnau by Madison Yost (6th)

Mr. Selnau is the second grade teacher who just began teaching at M.I.T.C.H Charter School this year. He began his teaching career as a librarian and science lab assistant before teaching in a classroom of his own. His current class loves him: he has good teaching skills and a hilarious sense of humor. I recently sat down with Mr. Selnau to learn about our newest staff member. This is what I discovered:

Q: What is your favorite sport?

A: Baseball.

Q: What is your favorite baseball team?

A: I have two, the Red Socks and the Mariners.

Q: What is your favorite restaurant?

A: Ruth's Chris

Q: What is your favorite book?

A: *The Princess Bride*.

Q: What is your favorite movie?

A: *The Princess Bride* again.

Q: What is your favorite subject to teach?

A: Math.

Q: What is your favorite lesson in math to teach?

A: That's hard. I enjoy teaching all lessons of math. Ordered pairs, I guess.

Q: Do you have any children?

A: Yes, I have an 18-year-old son, Brandon, and a 16-year-old daughter, Hayley.

Q: What are your hobbies?

A: Making animals and decorating cakes.

Q: What is your favorite cake that you decorated?

A: The turkey. I made a 3-D shaped turkey, with white cake for the body and chocolate for the legs. I



airbrushed it. It was amazing!

Q: I know you make pens out of wood. What is the latest pen you've been working on?

A: One made out of coffee beans. When I worked on it last, I got covered with coffee bean dust. I had to go take a shower immediately after, it was so bad!

Q: Classic question: if you were an animal, what would you be?

A: I don't know... a lion?

Q: Why do you want to be a teacher?

A: To change lives.

Q: If you had one wish, what would it be?

A: A permanent facility for M.I.T.C.H.

Q: If you won the lottery, what would you do with the money?

A: I would give it to people who have had dramatic changes and problems in their lives.

## Critic's Column by Mandy Johnson (8th)

Restaurant: **Slappy Cakes**

Type of food: Breakfast (Mostly pancakes)

Location: 4246 SE Belmont Street, Portland OR

Age: All Ages

Price Range: \$\$

Hours: Mon-Fri: 8 am - 2 pm

Sat-Sun: 8 am - 3 pm

Rating: ★★★★★

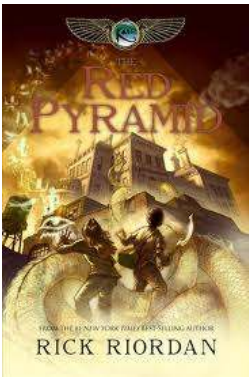
Slappy Cakes is a fun restaurant for the whole family. It has a great environment. Each table has a built-in griddle to create and cook your very own pancakes on. Each person can pick which batter, fillings and toppings they want for their own personalized pancakes. Everyone can have it their way! You can also order other

types of breakfast foods but it is mainly pancakes.

The staff is a great group of fun individuals. One of the only bad things is that there is commonly a waiting list because so many people like this restaurant. Overall, Slappy Cakes is a great breakfast food place that will make a fabulous family outing.

## Critic's Column continued...

"Far, far below, red liquid bubbled. Blood? Lava? Evil ketchup? None of the possibilities were good."  
-Rick Riordan,  
*The Red Pyramid*



**Book:** *The Red Pyramid*  
**Author:** Rick Riordan  
**Genre:** Fantasy Adventure  
**Age:** grades 6-8  
**Rating:** ★★★★★

*The Red Pyramid* is an intriguing story about a brother and sister who embark on an unexpected adventure. Nearly six years after their mother's death and being apart, Carter and Sadie Kane have almost nothing in common. Carter travels the world with his father. Sadie leads a normal life in London with her grandparents. Each longs for what the other has.

When the two are re-

united on Christmas Eve, their father takes them to the British Museum and tells them that his is going to solve everything. But things don't go according to plan. The siblings watch as their father summons an ancient creature and is banished and disappears. Soon Sadie and Carter find out that they are from a powerful Egyptian bloodline and are magicians. Also, they find out that the ancient Egyptian gods are waking and one of them has a frightening evil plan.

Sadie and Carter must embark on a dangerous quest to save their father. Their quest brings them closer to the truth about

their family and the House of Life, an order kept secret since the time of the pharaohs. Follow Sadie and Carter through their journey to find what is most important to them: Family.

*The Red Pyramid*, the first book in the Kane Chronicles, takes readers through a mix of Egyptian mythology and modern day problems. This book keeps readers intrigued in its exciting story about two siblings who are from a powerful Egyptian royal bloodline. Once again, Riordan has written a story readers will not be able to peel their eyes away from.

**Movie:** *Dolphin Tale*  
**Genre:** Family Drama  
**Length:** 1hour, 56 minutes  
**Age:** grades 3-8  
**Rating:** ★★★★★

*Dolphin Tale* is an inspirational movie based on a true story. In this film a 12 year old boy from Florida, Sawyer Nelson (played by Nathan Gamble), is struggling with many hardships in his life including the loss of his father, failing grades that lead to summer school and his only brother-like figure, his cousin Kyle (played by Austin Stowell) leaving to join the army. So when Sawyer finds

a wounded dolphin, later named Winter (played by the real dolphin Winter on which the story is based), washed ashore tangled in ropes and a lobster trap, Sawyer finds his summer changed.

Sawyer quickly befriends an 11 year old girl, Hazel (played by Cozi Zuehlsdorff), the daughter of single father and marine biologist Dr. Clay (played by Harry Connick Jr.). Together, with the help of Dr. Clay, the rescue center team and an artificial limb doctor, Dr. McCarthy (played by Morgan Freeman), they follow Winter through her remarkable journey back to health.

I loved every minute of this inspiring true story. *Dolphin Tale* has a great message that will inspire kids and adults alike to be brave and stay strong through hard times. This movie shows that anyone can make a difference, even a 12-year-old boy can do something as big as saving the life of a dolphin. This is definitely a movie worth watching.



## Riddles & Jokes by Steven Peterson (6th)

(1) What is the next letter in the series OTTFFSSEN?

(2) What gets wetter the more it dries?

(3) What do you get when you mix a bunny rabbit and an object located on most people's heads?

(4) One day a knight jumps over a

castle and a peasant successfully attacks him. A king is cornered by a man of the church and a queen is surprised by a moving castle. How is this possible?

### The Baseball Game

When a foolish boy was walking down the road he saw a baseball game. He asked what was going on

and was told by a lady that pitcher had just thrown a ball.

He said, "I should hope so. If that round object isn't a ball then what is it?"

She responded, "No, no, no. I was referring to the fact the ball didn't pass over the plate."

He simply replied, "Well I don't see much of anything I would like to eat off of down there."

## Comic Strip by Bailey MacDonald (8th)



"NO the plates are the white things down there, there are four of them -- one two three four -- home first second and third," she angrily yelled.

"Well who lives down there anyway?" he asked.

"What?" She said.

"You know, at home," he replied.

"Next you are going to be asking me who's on first," she cried.

"Oh yeah, about that, who is on first?" he asked.

Screaming, she left.

## Student Surveys by Riley Ares (8th)

### Do you have any Thanksgiving traditions?

"I will be eating chingcn (chicken)." -Maycel Gagwis (2)

"Every year on Thanksgiving I go to my Oma and Opa's house (*Oma* is german for grandma, as is *Opa* for grandpa)." -Mira Kron (3)

"I do." -Maya Brisan (2)

"I EAT BACON covered with cheese and dark chocolate." -Jared Muralt (7)

"My favorite Thanksgiving tradition is to sit around the fire after dinner and share our family's favorite funny stories." -Miss Willner (2nd grade teacher)

## Science Fair continued...

Second grade did a project where they recorded a poem on tape and put a magnet to it to see how many words it would erase.

Fourth grade did crystals and where they grew best.

Teachers have said it is very good that students are exposed

to the scientific method at a young age so that they get used to it. Teachers have also said that it gets kids hooked on science early. It introduces them to the scientific process and teaches young students how to develop a big project like this which will

benefit them in the future. Unfortunately the heavy work load for students gives them second thoughts about tackling projects like this. Also, science curriculums tend to get crowded out with Science Fair. Whatever the case, it raises the academic bar.



### Answers to Jokes & Riddles

- (1) T (One, Iwo, Three, Four...)
- (2) A Towel
- (3) A Hairy Hare
- (4) In a Chess Game

## Hurricane Irene Continued...

Henry Viles of Weston, Massachusetts and York Beach, Maine says: "We lost power for about an hour in my location (Maine) but other areas lost it for longer. Some high winds and of course high surf but not bad compared to some Northeasters that I have seen up there. They did say that trailers and those people in cottages should evacuate but basically think they were worried about flooding."

Brenda Rheingans-Devito of Weston, Massachusetts says: "It was wicked windy and I have never seen it rain so hard in my life. We only had a few small branches down, but in Wayland and Cochituate it looked like a micro burst along routes 20 and 30... the trees were stripped clean on one side of the road and untouched on the other... weird."

Curt Peterson of Hartland Four Corners, Vermont says: "Every major highway in the state was closed. All but one river went over their banks and wiped out roads, bridges, houses."

On the flip side, some people had other opinions on Hurricane Irene such as Martha Dupee Olney of Hopkinton Massachusetts who says: "Hurricane Irene was nothing more than a chance for the weather channel to increase their ratings! A non-event -- nothing more than a windy, rainy day."

These people were lucky. Many people suffered worse than them. Unfortunately, forty people died in eleven U.S. states. Most deaths were related to falling trees, downed power lines, ocean waves and high flood waters. This also devastated

Vermont (a highly rural state) because the harvest was about ready and the high flood waters and heavy rains wiped out the harvests. Not to mention many of the historical covered bridges and buildings were washed out as well.

Not only did Hurricane Irene impact the general public, it also set records. More rainfall was recorded in the months of August and September than in the entire year of 2011. Andrea Mustain of msnbc.com says, "They had a years' worth of rain during those months." Almost 10,000 flights were cancelled throughout the country. Philadelphia airport being among the ones completely shut down.

Joshua Galster told msnbc.com, "Irene was a really big media event; people were ready for it."